

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 01917 311717 Z

43

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SEC-03 L-03 PRS-01 NSC-10 SY-10 RSR-01 /072 W

----- 089293

R 311630 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4146

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1917

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EFIN, CS

SUBJ: VESCO CASE: ESPINOSA CHARGES REPORTERS' PHONES

TAPPED

REF: SAN JOSE 1874 & 1880

BEGIN SUMMARY: VESCO' S PR MAN HELD PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 29 TO CHARGE THAT CORRESPONDENT' S TELEPHONES WERE BEING TAPPED. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT TELEHPONE CALL SINGLED OUT AS PROOF. TIMES MAN PROMPTLY LABELED ESPINOSA ALLEGATIONS ABSURD AND " COMIC OPERA". END SUMMARY

1. VESCO' S SAN JOSE PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN, RAUL ESPINOSA, CALLED IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVES CURRENTLY IN SAN JOSE FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 29 TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE HAD PROOF THAT THE CORRESPONDENTS' TELEPHONES WERE BEING TAPPED. EXPINOSA CLAIMED SPECIFICALLY THAT NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT RICHARD SEVERO' S CONVERSATION HAD BEEN MONITORED AND THAT HE, ESPIOSA, HAD RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS CALL IN ENGLISH ALERTING HIM TO THE FACT.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS STORIES ABOUT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, ESPINOSA WENT ON TO SAY THE " CIA IS INVOLVED IN ALL OF THIS". HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE SEC IS PLANNING " A BIG MOVE TO SAVE FACE BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR THAT IT WILL LOSE ITS CASE AGAINST VESCO". HE REPEATED LEBLANC' S CHARGES THAT THE SEC IS MAKING LIFE DIFFICULT FOR VESCO (SEE REFTEL). IN REFERENCE TO THE EMBASSY' S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 01917 311717 Z

DENIAL (REFTEL) THAT IT WAS HARASSING VESCO, ESPINOSA MENTIONED
A PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER STORY OF NOVEMBER 3, 1972 AS EVIDENCE
THAT THE CIA WAS INVESTIGATING VESCO.

3. SEVERO STOPPED BY THE EMBASSY AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE
AND DECLARED HE WAS SO DISGUSTED WITH ESPINOSA' S BEHAVIOR
THAT HE IS PLANNING TO LEAVE COSTA RICA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,
PROBABLY THURSDAY. SEVERO IS CONVINCED THAT ESPINOSA
PERSONALLY, OR SOMEONE ON HIS BEHALF, LISTENED IN ON A CALL HE
MADE WITH HIS NEW YORK OFFICE TO FILE A STORY. SEVERO SAID IT
WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR ESPINOSA TO ARRANGE THROUGH THE
HOTEL SWITCHBOARD TO HAVE HIS CALL MONITORED. SEVERO BELIEVES
HE HAS BEEN USED BY ESPINOSA IN A CLUMSY EFFORT TO CONVINCE
THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS OF THE VERACITY OF HARASSMENT CHARGES
ESPINOSA HAS MADE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
SUBSEQUENT TO THE ESPINOSA PRESS CONFERENCE AND HIS VISIT
TO THE EMBASSY, SEVERO CONTACTED GUIDO FERNANDEZ, EDITOR
OF LA NACION AND OFFERED SOME COMMENTS OF HIS OWN WHICH
APPEARED IN THIS MORNING' S EDITION. LA NACION QUOTED
SEVERO, " THE IDEA THAT ANYONE IS TAPPING MY TELEPHONE IS
ABSURD. IT ALL SEEMS LIKE A COMIC OPERA." HE ADDED THAT
IF ANYONE WANTED TO LEARN ABOUT THE STORIES HE WAS FILING
THEY SHOULD BUY THE TIMES. THIS METHOD " IS SIMPLER,
REQUIRES LESS TIME, AND DOES NOT VIOLATE COSTA RICAN
(WIRETAPPING) LAWS."
VAKY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANJO001917
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730556/aaaajwea.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 SAN JOSE 1874 1880
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980309
Subject: VESCO CASE: ESPINOSA CHARGES REPORTERS' PHONES TAPPED
TAGS: EFIN, PGOV, CS
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005